

WORLD & NATION

Hospitals Seeing Decline In Paying Patients

By Reed Abelson
THE NEW YORK TIMES

In another sign of the economy's toll on the nation's health care system, some hospitals say they are seeing fewer paying patients even as greater numbers of people are showing up at emergency rooms unable to pay their bills.

While the full effects of the downturn are likely to become more evident in coming months as more people lose their jobs and their insurance coverage, some hospitals say they are already experiencing a fall-off in patient admissions.

Some patients with insurance seem to be deferring treatments like knee replacements, hernia repairs and weight-loss surgeries — the kind of procedures that are among the most lucrative to hospitals. Just as consumers are hesitant to make any sort of big financial decision right now, some patients may feel too financially insecure to take time off work or spend what could be thousands of dollars in out-of-pocket expenses for elective treatments.

Tolerance Over Race Can Spread, Studies Find

By Benedict Carey
THE NEW YORK TIMES

This was supposed to be the election when hidden racism would rear its head. There was much talk of a "Bradley effect," in which white voters would say one thing to pollsters and do another in the privacy of the booth; of a backlash in which the working-class whites whom Sen. Barack Obama had labeled "bitter" would take their bitterness out on him.

But lost in all that anguished commentary, experts say, was an important recent finding from the study of prejudice: that mutual trust between members of different races can catch on just as quickly, and spread just as fast, as suspicion.

In some new studies, psychologists have been able to establish a close relationship between diverse pairs — black and white, Latino and Asian, black and Latino — in a matter of hours. That relationship immediately reduces conscious and unconscious bias in both people, and also significantly reduces prejudice toward the other group in each individual's close friends.

This extended-contact effect, as it is called, travels like a benign virus through an entire peer group, counteracting subtle or not so subtle mistrust.

Catholic and Muslim Leaders Pledge to Improve Relations

By Rachel Donadio
THE NEW YORK TIMES

VATICAN CITY

Roman Catholic and Muslim leaders worked Thursday to deflate suspicion between the two faiths, pledging at a high-level seminar here to work together to condemn terrorism, protect religious freedom and fight poverty.

The meeting was long in coming, a year after 138 Muslim leaders wrote a letter to Pope Benedict XVI after he offended many Muslims by quoting a Byzantine emperor who called some teachings of the Prophet Muhammad "evil and inhuman." In turn, top Vatican officials have worried about freedom of worship in countries with a Muslim majority, as well as immigration that is turning Europe, which they define as a Christian continent, increasingly Muslim.

But on Thursday, both sides said that they hoped the seminar would open a new and much-improved chapter in Catholic-Muslim relations, as the two groups said they might establish a committee that could ease tensions in any future crisis between Catholics and Muslims.

Bush Warns of Vulnerability In Transition to Obama

By Sheryl Gay Stolberg and Robert Pear
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

President Bush, warning that terrorists "would like nothing more than to exploit this period of change," said Thursday that he intends to talk to President-elect Barack Obama on Monday about issues that will face his administration, including the turmoil in the financial markets and the war in Iraq.

The White House is especially concerned that the nation will be vulnerable during the transition between the Bush and Obama administrations. In one sign of that, Mike McConnell, the director of national intelligence, flew to Chicago to present Obama with his first top-secret intelligence briefing on Thursday.

"For the next 75 days, all of us must ensure that the next president and his team can hit the ground running," Bush said, in an emotional speech to hundreds of employees of the executive branch on the South Lawn of the White House. He urged them to "conduct yourselves with the decency and professionalism that you have shown throughout my time

in office."

Bush has said he is determined to conduct an orderly transition. The White House wants to avoid a repeat of the kind of news reports that plagued President Bill Clinton when he left office amid questions about whether members of his staff, irked at having to turn their offices over to Republicans, removed the letter W from some computer keyboards.

To that end, Bush has established a formal transition council that has already sought advice from outside experts, among them a former Clinton chief of staff, Mack McLarty. In an interview Thursday, McLarty praised the effort as "more formal, more focused, more intense" than any he had seen, adding, "The times call for it."

The administration is already providing transition offices in downtown Washington to the Obama team. Congress provided roughly \$40 million for transition-related activities in an omnibus spending bill signed by Bush in September. The money includes \$8.5 million for the General Services Administration, which will provide office space, computers, telephones and support services to the incoming administration.

Members of the Obama team are not federal employees and will therefore not have access to the secure government computers used by federal agencies, Bush administration officials said. But they will have access to e-mail and the Internet through a virtual private network.

The new law also provides \$8 million for the executive office of the president, which will see a big increase in personnel work for officials entering and leaving the government; \$5.7 million for the White House to prepare electronic records for transfer to the National Archives; \$15 million for security costs associated with the inauguration; and about \$600,000 to cover the cost of a pension, office space and other benefits for Bush after he leaves the White House.

The Bush-Obama transition is the first since the attacks of September 2001, and much of the work is being conducted with an eye toward national security. At the Department of Homeland Security, for instance, Elaine C. Duke, an undersecretary, is developing a "transition and succession plan" to be delivered to the Obama team by Dec. 1, as required by a 2007 law.

Accounts Undercut Georgia's Claims of Russian Provocation

By C.J. Chivers and Ellen Barry
THE NEW YORK TIMES

TBILISI, GEORGIA

Newly available accounts by independent military observers of the beginning of the war between Georgia and Russia this summer call into question the long-standing Georgian assertion that it was acting defensively against separatist and Russian aggression.

Instead, the accounts suggest that Georgia's inexperienced military attacked the isolated separatist capital of Tskhinvali on Aug. 7 with indiscriminate artillery and rocket fire, exposing civilians, Russian peacekeepers and unarmed monitors to harm.

The accounts are neither fully conclusive nor broad enough to settle the many lingering disputes over blame in a war that hardened relations between the Kremlin and the West. But they

raise questions about the accuracy and honesty of Georgia's insistence that its shelling of Tskhinvali, the capital of the breakaway region of South Ossetia, was a precise operation. Georgia has variously defended the shelling as necessary to stop heavy Ossetian shelling of Georgian villages, bring order to the region or counter a Russian invasion.

President Mikheil Saakashvili of Georgia has characterized the attack as a precise and defensive act. But according to observations of the monitors, documented Aug. 7 and Aug. 8, Georgian artillery rounds and rockets were falling widely throughout the city at intervals of 15 to 20 seconds between explosions, and within the first hour of the bombardment at least 48 rounds landed in a civilian area. The monitors have also said they were unable to verify that ethnic Georgian villages were under heavy bombard-

ment that evening, calling to question one of Saakashvili's main justifications for the attack.

Senior Georgian officials contest these accounts, and have urged Western governments to discount them. "That information, I don't know what it is and how it is confirmed," said Giga Bokeria, Georgia's deputy foreign minister. "There is such an amount of evidence of continuous attacks on Georgian-controlled villages and so much evidence of Russian military buildup, it doesn't change in any case the general picture of events."

He added, "Who was counting those explosions? It sounds a bit peculiar."

The Kremlin has embraced the monitors' observations, which, according to a written statement from Grigory Karasin, Russia's deputy foreign minister, reflect "the actual course of events prior to Georgia's aggression."

WEATHER

Clash of Extremes

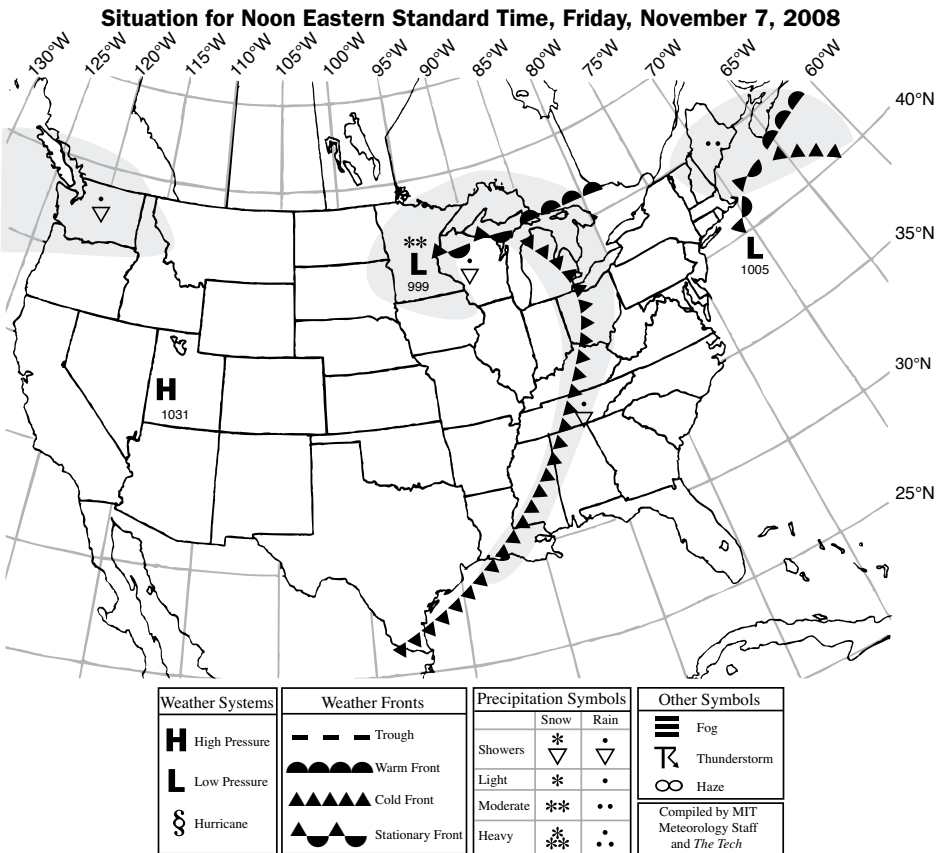
By Garrett P. Marino
STAFF METEOROLOGIST

A slowly moving low-pressure region currently over the Dakotas has set up a contrast of extremes in the middle of the country. Areas to the east of the low, in the warm sector of the storm, have set all-time November maximum temperature records. In contrast, areas just to the west of the low are receiving blizzard conditions. Some areas of the Dakotas have been getting pounded by several feet of snow and winds gusting over 55 mph at times. This storm is partly responsible for the above average temperatures that we have been feeling over the past few days, but thankfully it will lose its punch before approaching Boston.

A separate low-pressure system immediately off the coast will keep us under the clouds until Sunday. A few showers associated with this system are possible today, but most of the day should be dry. The storm currently over the Dakotas will move our way Saturday evening, bringing another period of showers at that time. Conditions should improve on Sunday, with cooler temperatures returning next week.

Extended Forecast

Today: Cloudy with showers possible. Highs in the low 60s°F (16°C)
Tonight: Cloudy. Lows near 50°F (10°C).
Saturday: Cloudy with afternoon showers. Highs in the low 60s°F (16°C).
Saturday Night: Cloudy with showers early. Lows near 50s°F (10°C).
Sunday: Partly sunny with highs near 60°F (16°C).



Just Before Holiday Season, Retail Sales Decline Sharply

By Stephanie Rosenbloom
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Just ahead of the crucial holiday shopping season, most of the nation’s retailers reported double-digit declines in October sales on Thursday, underscoring how the financial turmoil has touched all stores, be they discount or luxury.

The declines follow a weak September and foretell a holiday shopping season that many are characterizing as grim at best. Consumer spending over all fell 3.1 percent in the third quarter, its first decline in 17 years and the steepest fall since 1980. And the news is not likely to improve soon. On Friday, the Labor Department is expected to report that employers cut hundreds of thousands more jobs last month.

Among retailers, the luxury department store chain Neiman Marcus reported the deepest drop in sales at stores open at least a year, a crucial indicator also known as same-store sales.

October sales in Neiman’s specialty retail segment, which includes Neiman Marcus Stores and Bergdorf Goodman, were down 27.6 percent, in contrast to an increase of 7.8 percent a year ago.

Burton M. Tannsky, Neiman’s chairman and chief executive, said he expected that demand would “remain weak for an extended period of time” as affluent consumers cope with stock market volatility.

Other significant falloffs came from Abercrombie & Fitch (down 20 percent compared with a same-store sales decrease of 2 percent a year ago); the Gap (down 16 percent compared with a same-store sales decline of 8 percent a year ago); and Nordstrom (down 15.7 percent compared with a same-stores sales dip of 2.4 percent a year ago).

Several others, including Chico’s, J.C. Penney, American Eagle, Zumiez, Bon-Ton, Stein Mart and Pacific Sunwear, also suffered double-digit declines.

Even some discount retail chains — the one group that had been managing to tread water amid the economic slowdown — reported declines.

At Costco, the discount warehouse, October sales fell 1 percent compared with a 9 percent increase for the period a year ago.

Sales at Big Lots fell 0.2 percent, and Target sales dropped 4.8 percent.

Off-price retailers that include Ross Stores, T.J. Maxx and Kohl’s also had declines.

“We’re starting to see the chinks in the armor of the value-oriented players who compete more on the basis of price,” John Morris, a retail analyst with Wachovia, said.

Still, the few retailers that had same-store sales increases are known for low prices: Wal-Mart, BJ’s Wholesale Club, Children’s Place and Aeropostale.

October same-store sales at Wal-Mart, the nation’s largest retailer, increased by 2.4 percent, not including fuel, compared with a 0.4 percent increase for the same period a year ago. Analysts had expected a 1.6 percent gain.

Battered retailers essentially threw up their hands. Many revised or withdrew earnings guidance altogether. Macy’s suddenly resumed reporting its same-store sales figures, even though it had a same-store sales decline of 6.3 percent.

Overall, the industry’s sales numbers highlight the consumer freeze on discretionary spending, with Wal-Mart bucking the trend in large part because of its low prices on basic items.

Buying Guns, For Fear of Losing The Right to Bear Them

By Kirk Johnson
THE NEW YORK TIMESDENVER

Sales of handguns, rifles and ammunition have surged in the last week, according to gun store owners around the nation who describe a wave of buyers concerned that an Obama administration will curtail their right to bear arms.

“He’s a gun-snatcher,” said Jim Pruett, owner of Jim Pruett’s Guns and Ammo in northwest Houston, which was packed with shoppers on Thursday.

“He wants to take our guns from us and create a socialist society policed by his own police force,” added Pruett, a former radio personality. He was talking about President-elect Barack Obama.

Pruett said that sales on Saturday, before the election, ran about seven times higher than a typical good Saturday.

A spot check by reporters in four other states easily found Pruett’s comments echoed from both sides of the counter.

David Nelson, a co-owner of Montana Ordnance & Supply, in Missoula, Mont., said his buyers were “awake and aware and see a dangerous trend.”

Nelson said that sales at his store have risen about 30 percent since Obama declared his candidacy. “People are concerned about overreaching legislation from Washington,” he said. “They are educating themselves on the Internet.”

In Colorado, would-be gun buyers set a one-day record on Saturday with the highest number of background check requests in a 24-hour period, according to figures from the Colorado Bureau of Investigation.

Iran’s Leader Offers Salute To Obama in a Letter

By Nazila Fathi
THE NEW YORK TIMESTEHRAN, IRAN

President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad of Iran sent an unusual letter congratulating President-elect Barack Obama on Thursday for his victory in the American presidential race, even though the two nations have had no diplomatic ties for nearly 30 years.

Ahmadinejad has written letters to world leaders in the past, including one to President Bush. But this is the first time an Iranian leader has congratulated the winner of an American election, at least since the Iranian revolution.

Diplomatic ties between Iran and the United States were severed in 1979, when radical students attacked the U.S. Embassy in Tehran and took American diplomats hostage.

Iranian leaders continue to use hostile language toward the United States, and Ahmadinejad had said that he did not think a black candidate could be elected because of racial discrimination.

“I congratulate you for attracting the majority of votes in the election,” Ahmadinejad wrote in his message, an Iranian news agency, ISNA, reported. “As you know, opportunities that are bestowed upon humans are short lived,” he wrote, adding that he hoped Obama would make the most of the opportunity.

The delivery of the letter coincided with a move by the Bush administration to put more pressure on Iran by adding measures that prohibit financial institutions from helping Iranian banks, the government or others in the country, the Treasury Department said Thursday.

In Japan, Small Investors Taking More Chances as Markets Decline

By Martin Fackler
THE NEW YORK TIMES TOKYO

A global stock rout and fears of worldwide recession have sent millions of professional investors into panicked flight. But here a growing breed of contrarian investors sees opportunity after the Tokyo stock market reached a 26-year low recently.

Since last month, Japan’s legions of household savers have poured into the market by the tens of thousands — many of them first-time investors — seizing the world financial crisis as the greatest buying opportunity in a generation.

Sitting atop \$15 trillion in personal savings, they are snapping up equities, currencies and even riskier investments like index futures, to some extent replacing foreign investors and even helping drive a limited rally in Tokyo’s beleaguered exchanges, say stock analysts.

“The stock market rout has popularized stock trading like nothing before,” said Yuji Kusunoki, president of Rakuten Securities. “It’s a paradox, but all the grim news has actually ended up making the market seem more attractive.”

Individuals have emerged as the most active buyers on the exchange. Japanese individual investors were net buyers of \$10 billion worth of stocks on the Tokyo Stock Exchange last month, according to Tokyo-based Daiwa Securities, compared with \$2.1 billion in September. Foreign institutional investors were net sellers of some \$7 billion in stocks the same month, the brokerage firm said.

Craigslist Agrees to Curb Prostitution Ads

By Brad Stone
THE NEW YORK TIMES SAN FRANCISCO

The online classifieds company Craigslist said on Thursday that it had reached an agreement with 40 state attorneys general and agreed to tame its notoriously unruly “erotic services” listings.

Prostitutes and sex-oriented businesses have long used that section of Craigslist to advertise their services. Along with their ads, they often include pornographic photos.

Early this year, the attorney general of Connecticut, Richard Blumenthal, representing 40 states, sent a letter to Craigslist demanding that it purge the site of such material and better enforce its own rules against illegal activity, including prostitution. The two sides began a series of conversations about what Craigslist could do to prevent such ads from appearing.

“They identified ads that were crossing the line,” said Jim Buckmaster, chief executive of Craigslist. “We looked at those ads, we saw their point, and we resolved to see what we could do to get that stuff off the site.”

In Washington, Car Companies Plead for Bailout

By Bill Vlasic and Matthew L. Wald
THE NEW YORK TIMES

DETROIT

Executives of Detroit’s Big Three automakers traveled to Washington on Thursday to press their case for more financial aid from the federal government because of the bleak prospects for their industry.

And those prospects are likely to dim further on Friday, when General Motors and Ford are expected to report deeper job and production cuts, along with huge third-quarter losses. Analysts expect each to report losses of more than \$2 billion, excluding special charges or write-downs.

The meeting in Washington, with Capitol Hill’s top Democrats — the House speaker, Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., and the Senate majority leader, Harry Reid, D-Nev. — centered on a request by GM, Ford Motor Co. and Chrysler for as much as \$25 billion in loans to help the companies as they burn through their cash cushions during the worst sales market in 15 years.

The loan request is in addition to \$25 billion in low-interest loans to be available from the Energy Department

to assist automakers in developing more fuel-efficient vehicles.

The meeting, which lasted an hour and a half, was attended by GM’s chairman, Rick Wagoner; Ford’s chief executive, Alan R. Mulally; Chrysler’s chairman, Robert L. Nardelli; and the president of the United Auto Workers, Ron Gettelfinger.

After the meeting, Rep. John D. Dingell, D-Mich., called the discussions “extremely productive” but offered no details on when, or if, an aid package might be forthcoming.

Pelosi issued a statement saying the group discussed “how to protect hundreds of thousands of workers and retirees, safeguard the interests of American taxpayers, and use cutting-edge technology to transform blue-collar jobs to green-collar jobs for generations to come.”

When a spokesman for Pelosi, Nadeam Elshami, was asked if Congress would take up a proposal when it returns to Washington on Nov. 17, he said, “I wouldn’t go that far.”

Reid was also not specific about what aid Congress might provide. The Detroit executives slipped out of meetings with Pelosi and Reid, avoid-

ing reporters in both places.

The expected third-quarter losses from GM and Ford, the two largest American automakers, will come on top of dismal financial results for the first six months of the year, during which GM lost \$18.8 billion and Ford lost \$8.6 billion. The companies will also reveal how quickly they are burning through their available cash.

“I have never seen anything like this,” said David Healy, who recently retired after 40 years as an auto analyst, most recently with Burnham Securities. “But if they can get the federal money, I think there’s a decent chance they can survive.”

Both GM and Ford are expected to announce measures on Friday to conserve their rapidly dwindling cash reserves.

GM is likely to announce another round of cuts for white-collar jobs, as well as temporary layoffs at factories, early holiday shutdown of facilities and delays in programs to develop new vehicles.

Ford is expected to cease work at some plants to reduce production of slow-selling models, and possibly seek more buyouts from employees.

Three European Central Banks Cut Interest Rates Sharply

By Carter Dougherty and Julia Werdigier
THE NEW YORK TIMES

The top three European central banks cut interest rates on Thursday in the face of increasingly dire evidence that much of Europe was moving into a serious recession.

The Bank of England cut rates by a startling 1.5 percentage points, while the International Monetary Fund predicted developed economies as a whole would shrink next year for the first time since World War II and the global economy would grow at a feeble 2.2 percent. Previously, the fund had predicted 3 percent global growth and slight growth in the developed economies.

The European Central Bank reduced its benchmark rate by a half percentage point, to 3.25 percent. Though expected, the cut showed that the bank continues to be so concerned about slowing growth that it has overcome its long-time concerns about inflation. In a more surprising move, the Swiss National Bank did the same, taking its rate down to 2 percent, in part to halt the rapid appreciation of the Swiss

franc.

And in Britain, the European country hardest hit by the current financial crisis, the Bank of England cut its key interest rate by three times more than most analysts had anticipated, to 3 percent — the lowest level since 1954.

The cuts spurred a brief rally on slumping European stock markets, but most ended down.

The rate cuts represent central bankers’ effort — critics say belated — to curb the worst effects of a recession that many saw as avoidable until the collapse of Lehman Brothers sent the financial crisis rippling across the Atlantic.

“The intensification and broadening of the financial market turmoil is likely to dampen global and euro-area demand for a rather protracted period of time,” Jean-Claude Trichet, president of the European Central Bank, said.

Still, central banks demonstrated varying degrees of activism, with the Bank of England making its biggest rate reduction since 1981. Europe’s central bank, by contrast, considered but then shied away from bolder ef-

forts to fight the slowdown.

To many analysts, that suggested that Europe’s central bank — despite its sharp shift away from worries about inflation and its participation in a globally coordinated rate cut last month — was still not willing to engage in the kind of aggressive monetary policy that the Federal Reserve has made its hallmark.

“The contrast with the Bank of England here is extraordinary,” said Jacques Cailloux, chief Europe economist at Royal Bank of Scotland, in London. “To some extent, the British have simply adopted the Fed’s approach.”

Stuart Thomson, an analyst with Resolution Asset Management in Glasgow, said the reduction in Britain was “a measure of how sharply economic conditions have deteriorated since last summer,” in a country whose flagship industry — financial services — has fallen back on a major government rescue plan.

“The rate cut was aggressive and necessary and we believe that base rates will fall further over the next two years as the economy flirts with deflation,” Thomson said.

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Steam Explosion Could've Been Worse

It was fantastically fortunate that the building 66 steam explosion occurred at night, that it occurred on a Friday night, and that it occurred on the Friday night of Halloween, all of which contributed to the fact that there was nobody present in the sub-basement labs at the time.

Had the explosion occurred when people were there, this week MIT would be mourning the grisly death of fellow students, staff, or faculty who had been steamed and boiled alive as they tried to escape the 400-degree steam.

Ken T. Takusagawa '03

Listen to 'Contemporary' Music

In the Arts review "New and Old," (Volume 128, Issue 44) the author spoke about a night at the Boston Symphony Orchestra with music

from Messiaen, Boulez, and Berlioz. Before diving into the show, the author transitions with "Messiaen, Boulez and Berlioz don't make for an easy evening."

This article propagates a common false stereotype about 'new' or 'contemporary' music or whatever you want to call it (in the case of Messiaen and Boulez, 20th century 'classical' music, or you may think of 20th century music by serious composers — lets just call it 'contemporary music').

Specifically, it is the idea that the music is 'inaccessible' and 'difficult' to listen to.

This couldn't be farther from the truth.

Contemporary music is liberating in ways that 'classical' music will never be. Classical music has structure, keys, key shifts, standard forms, refrains and all sorts of other constraining mumbo jumbo. Contemporary music can have all of these things, but it can also, and many times does, contain none of them. And it can contain movements whose notes were decided randomly.

However, the idea that the creative use of this freedom makes a piece inaccessible is ri-

diculous. It has the opposite effect — it can break the rift between the intellectual and layman. You don't need to have a doctorate to understand Boulez's work — you just need to listen. Don't worry if you don't hear a key or a form or anything. Just listen. It is not difficult.

Don't try to describe the music with 'standard' terms. It's not 'standard' music, so there's no reason you should be able to use your normal set of critical words. In many cases you'll be left speechless — nobody says our language can accurately describe all types of music.

When you listen to jazz or classical or even blues and rock, your appreciation and response often grow with your level of knowledge: of the form, of the history and of the composer. More often than not, your appreciation and response to contemporary music is dictated only by your willingness to be open-minded and non-biased. This open-mindedness and non-biased approach often does grow with knowledge of the form and the music, but you can give yourself a great head start by ignoring the stereotypes that linger around contemporary music.

Brian Wheeler '10

MARSHALL SKIMSEY
CREATORS SYNDICATE
THE CLARION-LEDGER



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property of *The Tech*, and will not be returned. Letters, columns, and cartoons may also be posted on *The Tech's* Web site and/or printed or published in any other format or medium now known or later that becomes known. *The Tech* makes no commitment to publish all the letters received.

Guest columns are opinion articles submitted by members of the MIT or local community and have the author's name in italics. Columns without italics are written by *Tech* staff.

To Reach Us

The Tech's telephone number is (617) 253-1541. E-mail is the easiest way to reach any member of our staff. If you are unsure whom to contact, send mail to general@the-tech.mit.edu, and it will be directed to the appropriate person. You can reach the editor in chief by e-mailing eic@the-tech.mit.edu. Please send press releases, requests for coverage, and information about errors that call for correction to news@the-tech.mit.edu. Letters to the editor should be sent to letters@the-tech.mit.edu. The Tech can be found on the World Wide Web at <http://www-tech.mit.edu>.

ARTS

MOVIE REVIEW ★★★★★

Dense, Lurid Memory

Ashes of Time Redux

By Praveen Rathinavelu
ARTS EDITOR
Ashes of Time Redux
Written and Directed by Wong Kar-Wai
Starring Leslie Cheung, Tony Leung Kar-fai, Jacky Cheung, Brigitte Lin Ching-hsia, Tony Leung Chiu-wai, and Maggie Cheung
Now Playing in Limited Release

Wong Kar-Wai may be the most unjustly categorized filmmaker alive: it's easy to see his movies as little more than small, dizzying portraits of love, loss, and romance — as mood pieces. But Wong's best films — In the Mood for Love, 2046, and now his latest, Ashes of Time Redux — reveal a combination of intellectual and poetic heft that's rarely seen. His films thrive on moments of emotional overload; they are lurid and almost staggeringly beautiful. But they are important because they meditate on life in the wake, the continuous absence,

of those moments. It's cinema that, almost because it's so beautiful, is also mournful and deeply perplexing. In the opening minutes of Ashes of Time, a character announces that "memory is the root of all of man's problems." This is Wong's keenest obsession: he is constantly disrupting the passage of time in his films (in fact, they all exist in moments isolated from any sort of temporal reality) forcing the past and present to blend and interchange seamlessly. What he ends up producing are cascades of images and moments that are repetitive and self-reflexive, shifting uncontrollably between vague periods of time — in a way, his films are memories. The movie's protagonist, Ouyang Feng

(played brilliantly by the late Leslie Cheung) is a former swordsman, living in near isolation in the desert, years after being betrayed by the woman he loves (Maggie Cheung — always stunning). Near the end of Ashes of Time he declares that he never really saw the desert he has lived in for so long; he was too obsessed with the memory and loss of his lover. Wong's characters constantly question whether, at least when it comes to love, the present is anything more than a feeble reflection of the past. Ouyang Feng works as a middleman between hired swordsmen and the people who require their skills to exact revenge or regain their honor. Throughout the film, a series of swordsmen and clients come to Ouyang, each bringing their own memories, their own pain.

Ashes of Time Redux, is superficially a "martial arts" film and these characters — played by a terrific cast that includes both Tony Leungs and Brigitte Lin — each take part in their own conflicts and elaborate fight scenes. But Ashes of Time is more concerned with humanizing these characters; they are sad, enigmatic, and sharply conceived. It is amazing to watch Tony Leung Chiu-wai's swordsman slowly yield to blindness — or to see Murong Yin and Yang (actually the same person) grapple with their conflicting identities. Of course, Ashes of Time is visually arresting, and has such deeply enduring images. It's hard to not obsess over the blind swordsman groping through a yellow-lit corridor, or the two lovers, engaging quietly and passionately, each imagining that other is someone else, and aware that the other is doing the same. These are Ashes of Time's best moments; they are aesthetically resonant in a way that extends beyond our ability to dissect or parse.

Wong's characters constantly question whether, at least when it comes to love, the present is anything more than a feeble reflection of the past.

DANCE REVIEW

Lincoln's Legacy Dazzles at ICA

Dance Troupe Was Complex, Fluid

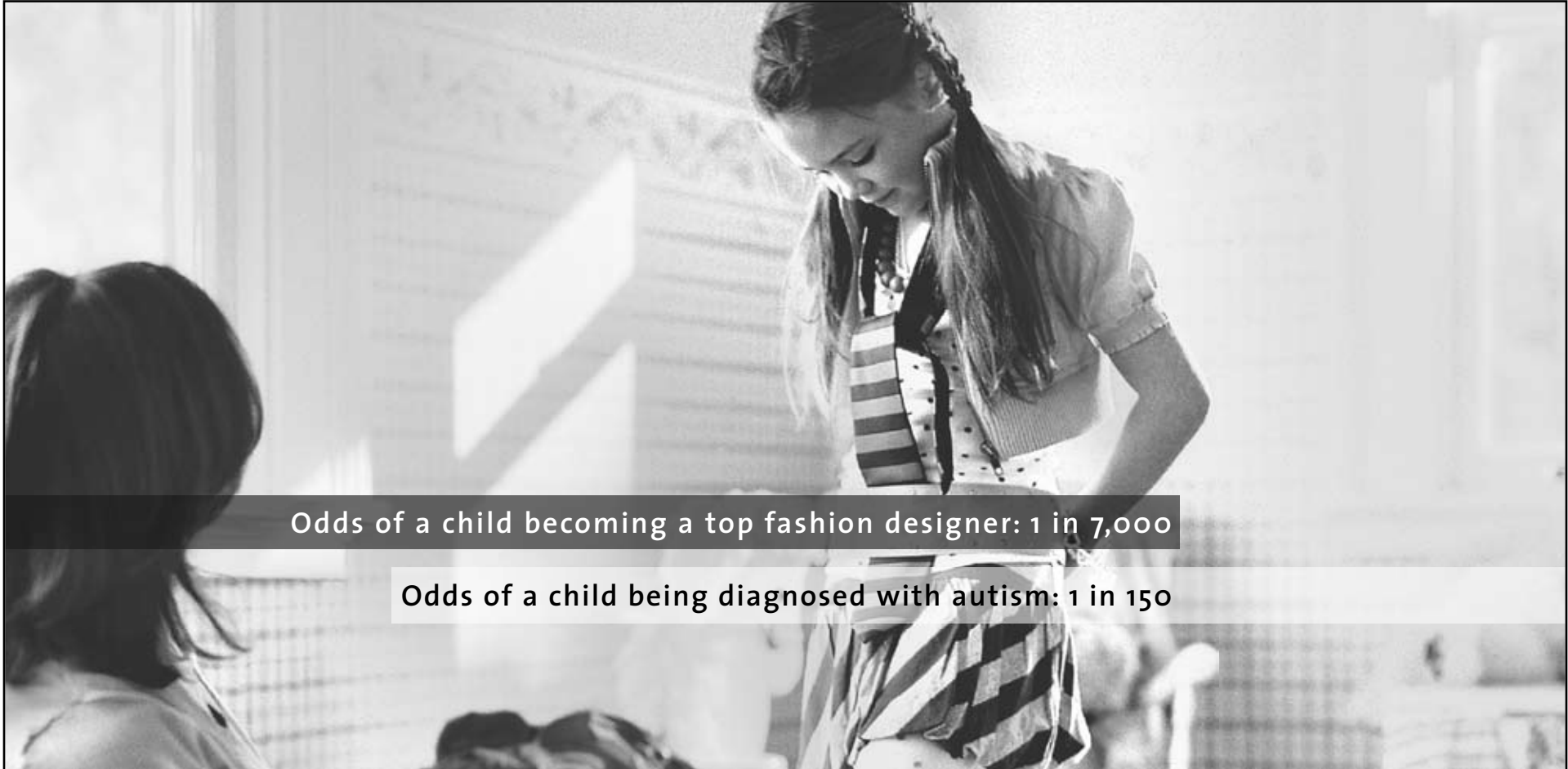
By Maggie Liu
STAFF WRITER
Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company
"Another Evening: Serenade/The Proposition,"
Performed at ICA/Boston
October 24–26, 2008

The Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company has been established for 25 years and is renowned as a driving force in the modern dance world. The last weekend of October, the company performed a piece, "Another Evening: Serenade/Proposition," at the Institute of Contemporary Art in Boston. "Another Evening: Serenade/Proposition" is in part a commemoration of Abraham Lincoln's legacy. The dance incorporates his documented words, the writings of his contemporaries about him, and other texts that epitomize his ideas, through both musical background and spoken word. The dance company was ac-

companied by a electric cellist, a pianist, a soprano, and pre-recorded oration. When the dancers stepped onto the stage, the organic atmosphere was striking. The dancers carried a note of androgyny: they were barefoot, clad in simple black pants and solid-print American Apparel-like tees. The movements of the dancers were so fluid, with a casual elegance that belied the hours I imagine they had put into rehearsal. The complexity of the dance was masked by their effortlessness. There was no pretension, no stiffness — while ballet is lovely, the stuff of modern dance lies in a whole different realm. There seemed to be no rules or stringent beats that they had to adhere to. However, the dancers coordinated wonderfully with the music and each other. The interaction of the dancers amongst themselves was probably one of the most impressive pieces of their dance. There were many moments of the performance when all that was visible were blurred spinning forms

and an entanglement of limbs. Dancers often leapt upward into the air, while being hoisted by two or three other dancers. Their lightness was incredibly impressive. As they tumbled and twirled across the stage, their footsteps barely sounded. While I was initially puzzled as to how audio recordings and music would be incorporated without detracting from the dancers, I later found that the background activities only contributed to the mood. The vocalist, Lisa Komara, had a soul-moving voice and the singularity of it only made more impact. It was accompanied by piano, violin, and a tastefully incorporated keyboard bit. The company also blended film into the pastiche of media. It served as a backdrop for a portion of the piece, a panoramic view of a place from the historical past. In a later scene, the film would cast attention to the dancer while also contributing to the ability of Lincoln's legacy to continue beyond the ages. The ability to mix so many mediums while

not overwhelming the audience was a noteworthy feat. The clean effectiveness of the set and costume design was highly significant in making it all work successfully. While there were a few moments when I was initially confused about the content of the recordings that played in the background, I later realized that it took pieces of different texts and constructed a loose narration of Lincoln's history and the history of Lincoln's time. I discovered the seemingly random locations spat out by the recording to be the names of battles fought in the Civil War. The dance explicitly meditated on certain themes: conflict, unity, and the significance one man can make in history. At the same time, however, some thematic elements may have been a bit abstract for the audience-members not keen on analyzing and theorizing. It was by no means a dance that laid out concrete ideas for the audience. Like the fluidity and looseness of the dancers' movements, the performance too was loose and open to interpretation.



Odds of a child becoming a top fashion designer: 1 in 7,000

Odds of a child being diagnosed with autism: 1 in 150

Some signs to look for:

| | | |
|--|---------------------------|------------------------|
| No big smiles or other joyful expressions by 6 months. | No babbling by 12 months. | No words by 16 months. |
|--|---------------------------|------------------------|

To learn more of the signs of autism, visit autismspeaks.org



Steal My Comic

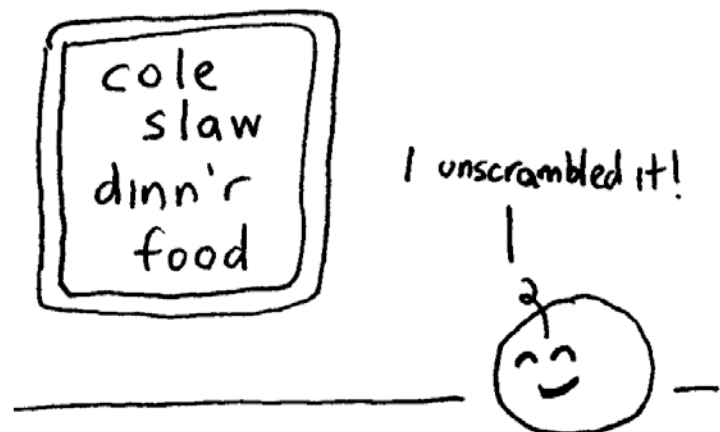
by Michael Ciuffo



Blobbles

by Jason Chan

Escrow donlanifold



Thanks to Andrew Westerdale for today's truly puzzling caption. Want to see your caption in Blobbles? Send it to blobbles@tech.mit.edu and I'll draw a cartoon for it!

Pseudoscience

by Daniel Klein-Marcusamer

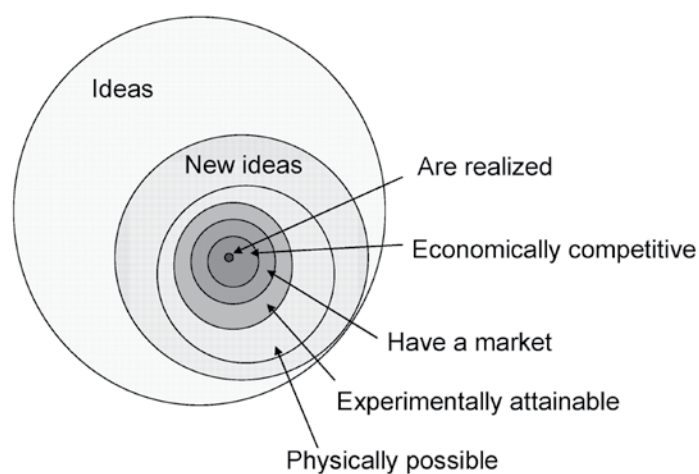


Figure 43. The above diagram illustrates the hardship of developing a technologically-based commercial product (disclaimers: (i) not a Venn diagram; (ii) circles not to scale). Consider the set of all ideas that can be conceived for solving a social need. A subset of these is actually original and does not contradict any fundamental laws of physics, and an even smaller fraction is practically attainable. Of those that can be reduced to practice, only a few have a market, but not all can be delivered in an economically competitive way. If an idea has survived all the prior tests, it still has to be realized for it to become a product. Therefore, and contrary to some popular views, coming up with an idea is far from developing a commercial solution.

The Daily Blunderbuss

by Ben Peters



SWEATER VESTS

They are awesome.

"TO SAY THAT CHARLIE KAUFMAN'S 'SYNECDOCHE, NEW YORK' IS ONE OF THE BEST FILMS OF THE YEAR OR EVEN ONE CLOSEST TO MY HEART IS SUCH A PATHETIC RESPONSE TO ITS SOARING AMBITION THAT I MIGHT AS WELL PACK IT IN RIGHT NOW."
-Manohla Dargis, THE NEW YORK TIMES

"A MOVIE MIRACLE."
NO FILM WITH AMBITION THIS LARGE, AND ACHIEVEMENT THIS IMPRESSIVE, CAN BE ANYTHING BUT EXHILARATING."
-Richard Corliss, TIME

**PHILIP SEYMOUR HOFFMAN
SAMANTHA MORTON
MICHELLE WILLIAMS
CATHERINE KEENER**

FROM THE WRITER OF ADAPTATION, BEING JOHN MALKOVICH AND ETERNAL SUNSHINE OF THE SPOTLESS MIND

**SYNECDOCHE
NEW YORK**

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY CHARLIE KAUFMAN

EXCLUSIVE ENGAGEMENTS
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Doonesbury
BY GARRY TRUDEAU

Dilbert® by Scott Adams

Crossword Puzzle
Solution, page 11

- ACROSS**

1 Barn bedding

6 "GoodFellas" co-star

11 Zeus or Jupiter

14 Writer Segal

15 Homegrown

16 Cry of discovery

17 See 61A

19 Get the gold

20 Barely get by, with "out"

21 Attempt

22 "The Waste Land" poet

24 Says again

27 Obtained

28 See 61A

33 '50s candidate Stevenson

36 Wickedness

37 Harem room

38 Lion's den

39 Strong polyester
- film

41 Hungarian violinist Leopold

42 Ninny

43 Second son

44 Puts in one's chips

45 See 61A

49 Christian denom.

50 Unique person

54 Suggest

58 Spoiled

59 Bambi's aunt

60 Tennis coach Tiriac

61 Bright

64 Shoe part

65 __ Dame

66 Eaglet's abode

67 Fore's counterpart

68 Ski lifts

69 Snooped
- DOWN**

1 Rainwater conduit

2 Three-wheeler

3 Greets the day

4 Top marksman

5 Riddle-ending query

6 Cast member

7 Long time, geologically

8 Dundee lad

9 Crow calls

10 Against the law

11 Deprive oneself

12 John Glenn's state

13 "__ Be Cruel"

18 Miss in Sp.

23 Dejected

25 Romanov ruler

26 Astral

29 Gardner of films

30 Mister

31 __ fixe (obsession)

32 Golfers' norms

33 Melodramatic cry

34 Short race

35 "A Different World" star

39 Wharton School deg.

40 Affirmative answer

41 "Lonely Boy" singer

43 Designate

44 French-American dialect

46 Eminem's music

47 Data displays

48 Asian sea

51 Swerves

52 Nonprotruding navel

53 Glutted

54 Pocket bread

55 Housetop

56 Uppity one

57 Kett of comics

62 Goof up

63 Earth: pref.

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | | 11 | 12 | 13 |
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| 20 | | | | 21 | | | 22 | | | 23 | | | | |
| 24 | | | 25 | | | | 26 | | 27 | | | | | |
| | | | 28 | | | | | 29 | 30 | | | 31 | 32 | |
| 33 | 34 | 35 | | | | | 36 | | | | | 37 | | |
| 38 | | | | | 39 | 40 | | | | 41 | | | | |
| 42 | | | | 43 | | | | | 44 | | | | | |
| 45 | | | 46 | | | | | 47 | 48 | | | | | |
| | | 49 | | | | 50 | | | | | 51 | 52 | 53 | |
| 54 | 55 | | | | 56 | 57 | | 58 | | | | 59 | | |
| 60 | | | | 61 | | | 62 | | | | 63 | | | |
| 64 | | | | 65 | | | | | | 66 | | | | |
| 67 | | | | 68 | | | | | | 69 | | | | |

su | do | ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column, row, and 3 by 3 grid contains exactly one of each of the digits 1 through 9.

Solution on page 12.

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2 | | | | | | | 4 |
| | | | | | 9 | | 5 | |
| 6 | | 9 | 1 | | | | | |
| 8 | 7 | | | 1 | | | | 2 |
| | 1 | 5 | | | | 8 | 4 | |
| 4 | | | | 3 | | | 1 | 5 |
| | | | | | 1 | 6 | | 8 |
| | 4 | | 7 | | | | | |
| 5 | | | | | | | 2 | |

Solution, tips, and computer program at <http://www.sudoku.com>

QMGA I LSKPFA (NPPH://BGLKSKGOM.RGP.OCQ/LSKPFA),
KOJQOMP S HCD MYSA FD PNO DFBBFUGAI SKPGYBO,
UNGYN UO NSTO GA MPFKSIO:

LSPYNOBFK, L.I., YBSMMGDGYSPGFA FD HFBO RSHM GA
YFRHBOV HBSAO. ZFQKASB FD YWLOKAOPGYM, 1978.
8(3-4): H. 237-251.

EOOH GA RGAC PNSP PNO BGLKSKW MPFKSIO SAAOV GM
FABW FHOA DFK MYSAAGAI RFACSW PNKFQIN DKGCSW,
AGAO PF DGTO.

Think you've solved it?

Use Libraries resources to solve this puzzle. If you're an MIT student and your answer is correct, you could win a new iPod Nano! Go to libraries.mit.edu/puzzle to get a copy or submit your answer by midnight November 12, 2008 to be eligible for the drawing.



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNER OF PUZZLE #1, HANH PHAM

Heavy Turnout for Historic Election

(clockwise from right) Kresge Auditorium's lobby, a polling place, glows with the bright lights over the voting booths at the very end of Election Day 2008.

Hundreds of students crowded into Copley Square in Boston in an impromptu celebration amidst music, drumming, dancing, and cries of "Yes, we can!" an Obama campaign slogan. The gathering dispersed peacefully upon request by the Boston Police.

Students hung a "Yes We Did" poster in Lobby 7 on Nov. 4, 2008 to celebrate Barack Obama's victory in the 2008 presidential elections.



HANNA S. KUZNETSOV

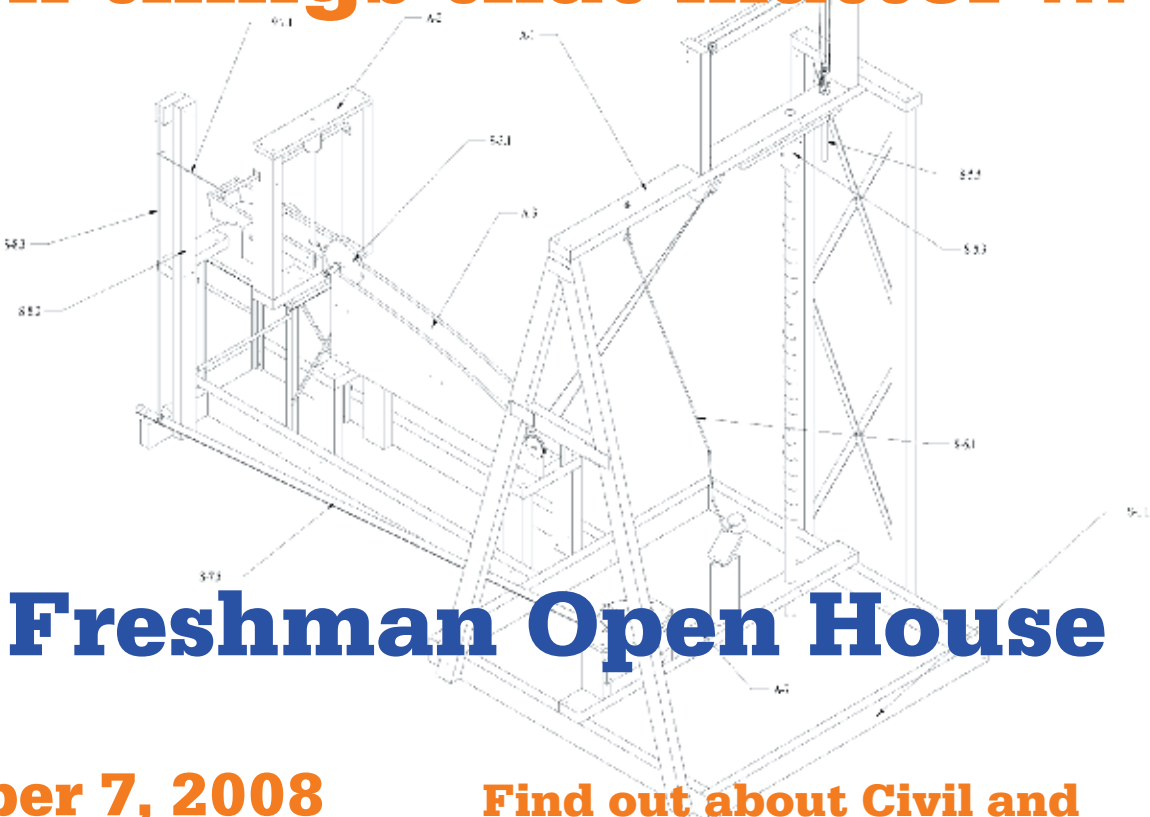


ERIC D. SCHMIEDL—THE TECH



PERRY HUNG—THE TECH

Working on things that matter ...



Course 1 | Freshman Open House

Noon – 4 p.m.
Friday, November 7, 2008
Bush Room 10-105

Find out about Civil and Environmental Engineering

- The Big Dig: Fact and Fiction
- Water and Sanitation
- Environmental Fluid Mechanics
- Water, Food and Population in China
- Photosynthetic Ocean Microbes
- Simulation Rush Hour Traffic
- Materials and Structures in Biology
- Advance Technologies for Sustainable Materials and Structures
- National Student Steel Bridge Competition
- ...and more

Course 1 | cee.mit.edu



Department of
Civil & Environmental Engineering
Massachusetts Institute of Technology


MIT Music Theatre Guild Performs Kiss Me, Kate



Music Theatre Guild is performing Kiss Me, Kate in La Sala De Puerto Rico on Nov. 7-8 and 13-15 at 8pm, and Nov. 8 at 2pm.

(Clockwise from top left) Lois Lane (Kimberly A. Brink '10) complains about her beau Bill Calhoun's (Daniel A. Perez '10) gambling habit in "Why Can't You Behave?"

Lois Lane (Kimberly A. Brink '10), Lilli Vanessi (Kerry Brooke Steere), Bill Calhoun (Daniel A. Perez '10), and Fred Graham (Justin D. Breucop '12) open "The Taming of the Shrew: The Musical."

Things get out of hand during "The Taming of the Shrew: The Musical," resulting in Fred Graham (Justin D. Breucop '12) disciplining Lilli Vanessi (Kerry Brooke Steere).

Lilli Vanessi (Kerry Brooke Steere) and Fred Graham (Justin D. Breucop '12) reminisce about old love during "Wunderbar."

Things get even more out of hand resulting in the townspeople of Padua panicking during "Kiss Me, Kate!"

Bianca Minola played by Lois Lane (Kimberly A. Brink '10) explains that she wishes she could marry before her elder sister in "Tom Dick or Harry" while surrounded by her suitors Lucentio played by Bill Calhoun (Daniel A. Perez '10) and Hortensio (Ben C. Williams '11).

Photography by William Yee

authors@mit presents:

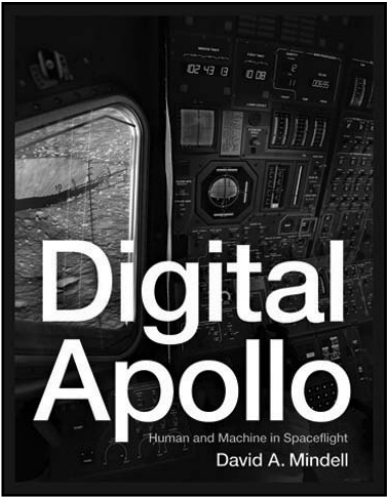
David Mindell

and his new book:

DIGITAL APOLLO

Human and Machine


in Spaceflight



please join us:

Thursday, November 13th, 6:00pm

MIT 32-155, 32 Vassar Street



Please join us as we celebrate the publication of the newest book by MIT's David Mindell. "Digital Apollo" tells the story of how human pilots and automated systems worked together to achieve the ultimate in flight—the lunar landings of NASA's Apollo program.

"Digital Apollo" is published by the MIT Press, 2008.

David A. Mindell is Dibner Professor of the History of Engineering and Manufacturing, Professor of Engineering Systems, and Director of the Program in Science, Technology, and Society at MIT.

open to the public and wheelchair accessible

Event & Parking Info: (617) 253-5249, or web.mit.edu/bookstore/www/events/

Most Poll Problems In Cambridge Fixed On Tuesday Morning

Voting, from Page 1

housemaster of Ashdown, said that his name did not appear in the local registry when he went to vote at the polls in Kresge Auditorium in the morning.

In an e-mail to Ashdown House residents, Orlando said that he was able to vote by presenting a yellow confirmation card sent by the City of Cambridge when he changed his address to the new Ashdown location. "It appears that without [the card], I would not have been able to vote," Orlando said in the e-mail. "My name was written in on the rolls by hand by a poll worker, and there was much confusion in both entering to vote and then exiting the voting area."

Orlando told *The Tech* that people whose names were not found on the lists were also able to vote normally after waiting in line for vote administrators to call the central Cambridge voting registry and verify that their names were listed.

At least one student, Ben A. Bloomberg '11, was unable to vote officially and filed a provisional ballot instead because his name was not listed in the central Cambridge registry. Bloomberg said that he had registered at a drive sponsored by MIT for Obama in September in Lobby 10.

Catherine Havasi '03, head of MIT for Obama, said that problems students encountered at polling places had not been linked to the MIT for Obama registration drive.

Another registration drive held in October in the Student Center and was sponsored by *The Tech* and the Undergraduate Association. *Tech* Opinion Editor Andrew T. Lukmann G, who was in charge of the drive, said that he had not been contacted about any drive registrants encountering problems when voting.

Havasi said that a combined 500–600 students were registered at the MIT for Obama and UA/*Tech* drives.

Five other students listed their names on a page Bloomberg created to find MIT students who had encountered problems. Two of these students were contacted by *The Tech* and said that their problems had been specific to their cases and not part of a larger problem at MIT or Cambridge.

Solution to Crossword

from page 7

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| S | T | R | A | W | | P | E | S | C | I | | G | O | D |
| E | R | I | C | H | | L | O | C | A | L | | O | H | O |
| W | I | S | E | A | S | A | N | O | W | L | | W | I | N |
| E | K | E | | T | R | Y | | T | S | E | L | I | O | T |
| R | E | S | T | A | T | E | S | | G | O | T | | | |
| | | | S | M | A | R | T | A | S | A | W | H | I | P |
| A | D | L | A | I | | E | V | I | L | | O | D | A | |
| L | A | I | R | | M | Y | L | A | R | | A | U | E | R |
| A | S | S | | A | B | E | L | | A | N | T | E | S | |
| S | H | A | R | P | A | S | A | T | A | C | K | | | |
| | | B | A | P | | | R | A | R | A | A | V | I | S |
| P | R | O | P | O | S | E | | B | A | D | | E | N | A |
| I | O | N | | I | N | T | E | L | L | I | G | E | N | T |
| T | O | E | | N | O | T | R | E | | A | E | R | I | E |
| A | F | T | | T | B | A | R | S | | N | O | S | E | D |

The Tech is where it's at!



The Siemens Competition in Math, Science and Technology is coming to MIT!

The Siemens Competition takes great pleasure in inviting the students, faculty and staff of MIT to the following events:

Reception and Viewing of the Students' Research Projects:
(refreshments will be served)

DATE:

Friday, November 7, 2008

TIME:

5:00 pm – 6:30 pm

LOCATION:

Stratton Student Center, 3rd Floor, 20 Chimneys Room

Student Oral Presentations:

DATE:

Saturday, November 8, 2008

TIME:

8:00 am – 1:30 pm

LOCATION:

Stratton Student Center, 3rd Floor, Mezzanine Lounge Room

We look forward to seeing you!

The Siemens Competition in Math, Science and Technology is the nation's premiere math and science research competition for high school students. The Siemens Foundation provides more than \$7 million annually in support of educational initiatives in the areas of science, technology, engineering and math in the United States. By supporting outstanding students today, and recognizing the teachers and schools that inspire their excellence, the Foundation helps nurture tomorrow's scientists and engineers.

www.siemens-foundation.org

SIEMENS

Campaign Software ‘Houdini’ Organized Ground Operations

Campaigning, from Page 1

teamed up with an Emerson undergrad and we were directed to drive out to the Londonderry, N.H. office.

The Londonderry field office was set up at the Stonyfield Farms Yogurt Factory. And yes, there was free yogurt for Obama volunteers. At any time the office contained about 10–20 volunteers in addition to about 10 full-time Obama staffers.

From personal experience, I can easily say the Obama ground operation of 2008 dwarfs the 2004 Kerry operation. I’m also sure it far exceeds the vaunted Rove Republican Operations. I don’t think an operation like this has ever existed. They are the most motivated and organized group I’ve ever seen.

In addition to having motivated ground troops, the Obama campaign is incredibly technologically advanced. The Obama campaign’s computer is named “Houdini.” It has a list of every single registered Democrat, Barack-leaning independent, and Obamacan. Each voter shows up as a black dot on a Google Map. The campaign records statistics on each of these voters, tracking the number of times each house has been canvassed, called, persuaded, and mainly badgered into voting for Obama.

When they do finally vote, the dot disappears from the screen, hence the name “Houdini.” Our job, as we learned when we arrived, is to make every single dot disappear.

Groups of canvassers passed through an Obama assembly line. First we registered, then we underwent a brief training session with Obama staffers. Finally, we picked up packets containing maps, lists of voters, and campaign paraphernalia. Volunteers were split up into groups of two to four and sent out to canvas all Obama supporters in a given area.

“This is your turf,” they instructed. “Make sure everyone gets to the polls.”

With that, they sent us on our way. There were tables of food donated by the yogurt factory and other local volunteers. The campaign had also ordered catering for lunch and dinner. Now I knew where some of that \$600 million in campaign contributions was going.

My partner and I hit the trail. We canvassed suburban neighborhoods that are mostly middle class. A couple trends emerged. First, every house on our list has been contacted multiple times by the Obama Campaign and only very few times by the McCain campaign. Most of these residents are accustomed to seeing Obama ground troops in their neighborhoods and our presence is often telegraphed.

“Mom, more Obama people

here!” a small girl shouts as we walk towards the door.

Every time the door opens, the answer is essentially the same: “I’ve already voted, thanks.”

One story is especially memorable. We canvassed a development full of retirees. Our maps indicated that almost two thirds of this neighborhood are considered Obama supporters, and from knocking on doors, we found that all except for one of them have already voted for Obama.

The one exception is a 92-year-old Jewish man who breathes with the aid of an oxygen tube. His daughter opened the door and told us that he had waited in line this morning for an hour-and-a-half, but in the end, did not feel well enough to vote. Upon seeing us, the man walked up to us and apologized personally for not being able to vote for Obama.

I doubt I will see anything like this again in my life.

From talking to some of the Obama staffers manning the polls, most of the precinct waited in lines before the polls opened to get their vote in. Not knowing how long the wait would be, most erred on the side of caution.

At 7 a.m., when the polls opened at the Londonderry High School Gymnasium, lines stretched out hundreds of yards into the parking lots. By 9 a.m., the lines were gone, and although the volume was heavy throughout the day, no one had to wait more than a few minutes. I was also told by a staffer that some 12,000 people in the precinct had already voted. They expected turnout in New Hampshire to be around 90 percent or higher.

Our results on the ground supported this. Of the about a hundred or so people we had contacted, only two did not cast votes.

We finished canvassing around 7 p.m. and made one last trip out to the polls. There were still many enthusiastic Obama supporters waving signs outside the entrance in addition to several McCain supporters. Although the vehicle traffic to and fro was still heavy, the pace at the polls was brisk. Many of the staffers were readying for the results party at a hotel in Manchester.

Back at Obama headquarters, we encountered about 10 remaining staffers huddled around TVs and catering trays. A sign on the wall read, “1 hour ‘til polls close.” They were tired, but cautiously optimistic. One staffer asked us to go back out and canvas 10 more houses. Since it was dark and we had met so few people who hadn’t voted, we politely declined.

It wasn’t until half-way back to Boston, around 8 p.m., that we heard the news. Obama had won New Hampshire convincingly.

IFC Will Supervise ATO’s Probation After Rush Violation, Bldg. Damage

IFC, from Page 1

fraternities share “best practices,” as they learn better ways to solve any problems or challenges a chapter is facing that another may have already faced.

He will also oversee the organization’s tight self-regulation of recruitment and party rules. Hutchings said his IFC administration would continue a judicial process review committee, consisting of members of the IFC executive board, presidents of chapters, and any interested fraternity members. “The committee is reviewing the current IFC judicial process and will ultimately present suggestions for change to IFC presidents,” Hutchings said in an e-mail.

Input from his community is important, Hutchings said, and ideally “everyone understands why we’re doing everything.”

Hutchings and the rest of the executive board will ultimately be in charge of enforcing a policy that essentially puts Alpha Tau Omega on an extended probation. Underage freshmen were served alcohol at a Boston restaurant where ATO held a party during this fall’s rush, and some in the IFC took a dim view of the fraternity’s recruitment practices and looked critically at the damage caused to the fraternity’s house by a burst pipe. The damage has left them living in MacGregor House for the semester while their house undergoes renovations.

Under the policy, which governs ATO’s behavior for the next four years but most of whose provisions last only until 2010, ATO risks expulsion if it violates IFC policies or rules. Hutchings said he chaired the IFC ad hoc committee that wrote the agreement, whose terms the IFC discussed for six weeks.

Hutchings said the IFC has “made great strides” in revising its policies to match new challenges. After August revisions, the IFC’s risk management policies include clearly delineated requirements for size, admission, advertising, and monitoring of fraternity events, even if alcohol is not served at those events.

During this year’s rush, freshmen were offered new seminars in “how to rush” — what kinds of questions to ask a prospective fraternity, who to talk to, what to do, and how to be recruited effectively.

Recruitment chairs were also advised on how to refer freshmen to other chapters — if they thought a freshman might not fit in with their house but might do well at another fraternity they weren’t already considering, for instance. Hutchings said he hoped to encourage more referrals, as a way to help people find a good fit, and so that fraternity chapters would get used to working together.

Recruitment has continued to be strong even as MIT approaches

Newly Elected IFC Executive Board

| | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| President | David J. Hutchings ’10 |
| Vice President | O. Russell Rodewald ’10 |
| Judicial Committee Chair | Thomas S. Lipoma ’11 |
| Recruitment Chair | David B. Stein ’10 |
| Risk Manager | Ryan Andrews ’10 |
| Program Development Chair | Daniel Chen ’11 |
| Executive Assistant | Clark D. Minor ’12 |

SOURCE: INTERFRATERNITY COUNCIL

gender parity, Hutchings said. “A lot of chapters are quite strong,” he said. This year, the total number of accepted bids during rush was 284, Hutchings said. Fraternity rush resulted in 317 new pledges last year and 299 pledges the year before. This year’s slight decrease could be attributed to the lost of No. 6, which left the IFC earlier this year, and ATO’s rush violations, which prevented the fraternity from giving bids.

The IFC controls a budget of about \$63,000, of which about half is provided by MIT, according to the

2008 budget posted at mitifc.org.

The IFC’s new vice president, Rodewald, is the current president of Sigma Phi Epsilon, a relatively young incarnation of a fairly old fraternity. SigEp was suspended by its national chapter in spring 2005 because of low funds and membership. The fraternity returned to campus in fall 2005 and has been rebuilding since then. SigEp’s two houses in Boston are currently being rented out to boarders but some members are expected to move into the house in the coming fall.

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Good Time Emporium Auction Will Make Room for New IKEA

Good Time, from Page 1

ings said ZBT learned of the closure in the fall when they tried to book it for a rush event.

"I liked Good Times because it was simple, cheap fun. It reminded me more of the arcades of my childhood than any of the pricier places. Sure, the carpets were a little grungy, and some of the balls on the skee-ball machines were old enough that they weren't really spheres anymore, but I never minded," Beth E. Baniszewski '05 said in a zephyr interview. A friend once misplaced her purse and had it stolen, but other than that, Baniszewski said she didn't see any of the crime sometimes associated with Assembly Square. "I'll remember winning lots of tickets for the people whose birthdays we celebrated, and I'll remember going there to flirt with friends while playing air hockey," she said.

The Tech took a group in October 2007. A good time was had by all for about three hours. Good Time was clean but poorly lit, with dark carpets and a dank atmosphere. On a Saturday afternoon, the attendees generally seemed respectable.

At Good Time, a \$6 laser tag ticket was probably not worth it — the experience lasted only about eight

minutes and the arena was pretty small, although it could ostensibly hold about twenty people. Participants were indifferent to the experience.

The go-karts, on the other hand, provided a great value at \$5 a ticket. Claims of racing possibilities or some kind of clock on the go-kart track made on Good Time's Web site were patently false. But attendees enjoyed the high-speed karts, whose low center of gravity made an exciting experience. Breaking the track's only rule — "do not bump other karts" — two staff reporters ganged up on a third, who was bumped around the track at high speeds. The "victim" said he enjoyed it anyway and ended up getting back at his opponents.

The arcade was large and well-apportioned, and many small prizes made their way back to the office. Of the five Good Time arcade tokens that went unused, two were actually Chuck E. Cheese's tokens.

The "bowling" arcade game Bowlingo proved disappointingly unrealistic and cost eight tokens, far too many for the meager rewards. The Tech did not review the billiards, batting cages, the children's Himalaya Ride, the basketball court, or the pizza party package (40 tokens, two slices of pizza, two sodas, and two

rounds of bumper cars for \$12).

The goods being auctioned in Brockton on Saturday include 32 go-karts and a complete track, a 28-player laser tag system, more than 150 different arcade games, "Skee Balls (9)," thousands of tables, chairs, and stools, a "PRO Nightclub with Recording Equipment," 30 projectors, a 10-car bumper car system, and 45 pool tables. Current information about the auction is available online at <http://www.superauctions.com/pages/calendar.htm>.

In its peak, Good Time was more than a family fun center: it also contained a full sports bar, frequented by Somerville residents and by parents while their kids were off having a birthday party at the amusement park. Good Time's bar was, some said, a magnet for crime.

In March 2004, a Lynn resident was fatally stabbed in Good Time's parking lot after the victim and his assailant had fought earlier outside Good Time. Manuel Spencer, 24, of Somerville, pled guilty to manslaughter and was sentenced to 10–12 years in state prison in Sept. 2008.

In April 2007, a man was shot to death at about 1:30 a.m. while driving home from Good Time Emporium, the *Somerville News* reported. The man's friends drove him back to the emporium to seek help from police.

In March 2008, the *Somerville News* reported that police said they had broken up an Easter Sunday fight at Good Time among 150–200 people, some armed with baseball bats and knives, with "tables and chairs being thrown in every direction." While police officers were arresting a 17-year-old for threatening another woman with a knife and fighting police, a crowd of 50–75 people surrounded the police, according to an incident report written by Somerville officer James McNally and obtained by the *Somerville News*. "[We] had to resort to swinging our expandable batons around to keep the crowd from physically coming at us," McNally said in the report.

An anonymous commenter on the *News*'s website disputed the account, saying that "I was there and it was only about 4 people fighting." Other commenters were less kind: "They should close this place down. It's a magnet for drugs and other kinds of crime. We don't need it in Somerville," one wrote. Another wrote, "this place is a monument to drugs, gambling and violence. why wait for Ikea - tear it down right now." "The place is nothing but trouble," wrote a commenter identifying himself as "kev."

A commenter identifying himself as Danny McLaughlin wrote "Just last week I attend a great fund raiser at Good times, sadly what I saw Sunday was anything but great. Although I couldn't see much through the large crowd, it was a scary sight. I saw small children crying in their parent's arms, people running from the scene, all types of people running to hide. I couldn't believe my eye what a mad house this place had become."

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from page 7

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Profs. Have Little Influence on Students' Ideologies

By Patricia Cohen
THE NEW YORK TIMES

An article of faith among conservative critics of American universities has been that liberal professors politically indoctrinate their students. This conviction not only fueled the culture wars but has also led state lawmakers to consider requiring colleges to submit reports to the government detailing their progress in ensuring “intellectual diversity,” prompted universities to establish faculty positions devoted to conservatism and spurred the creation of a network of volunteer watchdogs to monitor “political

correctness” on campuses. Just a few weeks ago Michael Barone, a fellow at the conservative American Enterprise Institute, warned in The Washington Times against “the liberal thugocracy,” arguing that today’s liberals seem to be taking “marching orders” from “college and university campuses.” But a handful of new studies have found such worries to be overwrought. Three sets of researchers recently concluded that professors have virtually no impact on the political views and ideology of their students. If there has been a conspiracy

among liberal faculty members to influence students, “they’ve done a pretty bad job,” said A. Lee Fritschler, a professor of public policy at George Mason University and an author of the new book “Closed Minds? Politics and Ideology in American Universities” (Brookings Institution Press). The notion that students are induced to move leftward “is a fantasy,” said Jeremy D. Mayer, another of the book’s authors (Bruce L. R. Smith is the third co-author of the book). When it comes to shaping a young person’s political views, “it is really hard to change the mind of anyone over 15,” said Mr. Mayer, who did extensive research on faculty and students.

“Parents and family are the most important influence,” followed by the news media and peers, he said. “Professors are among the least influential.”

A study of nearly 7,000 students at 38 institutions published in the current PS: Political Science and Politics, the journal of the American Political Science Association, as well as a second study that has been accepted by the journal to run in April 2009, both reach similar conclusions.

“There is no evidence that an instructor’s views instigate political change among students,” Matthew Woessner and April Kelly-Woessner, a husband-and-wife team of political scientists who have frequently conducted research on politics in higher education, write in that second study.

Their work is often cited by people on both sides of the debate, not least because Mr. Woessner de-

scribes himself as politically conservative.

No one disputes that American academia is decidedly more liberal than the rest of the population, or that there is a detectable shift to the left among students during their college years. Still, both studies in the peer-reviewed PS, for example, found that changes in political ideology could not be attributed to proselytizing professors but rather to general trends among that age group. As Mack D. Mariani at Xavier University and Gordon J. Hewitt at Hamilton College write in the current issue, “Student political orientation does not change for a majority of students while in college, and for those that do change there is evidence that other factors have an effect on that change, such as gender and socioeconomic status.”

That may be, said Daniel Klein, an economist at George Mason, but those results don’t necessarily mean there isn’t a problem. Mr. Klein, whose research has shown that registered Democrats vastly outnumber Republicans among faculty in the humanities and social sciences at American colleges and universities, maintains that the focus on the liberal-conservative split is misdirected. Such terms are vague and can be used to describe everything from attitudes about religion and family to the arts and lifestyles, he said.

The real issue, said Mr. Klein, who calls himself a libertarian, is that social democratic ideas dominate universities — ideas that play down the importance of the individual and promote government intervention.

Such “academic groupthink” means that the works of such thinkers are not offered enough, he argues. “A major tragedy is that they’re not getting exposed to the good stuff,” he said, citing the works of John Stuart Mill, Adam Smith, Friedrich

Hayek and Milton Friedman. “Even if we had hard, definite evidence that students weren’t influenced by their professors, there is still reason for great concern about the composition of the faculty,” Mr. Klein added. K.C. Johnson, a historian at the City University of New York, characterizes the problem as pedagogical, not political. Entire fields of study, from traditional literary analysis to political and military history, are simply not widely taught anymore, Mr. Johnson contended: “Even students who want to learn don’t have the opportunity because there are no specialists on the faculty to take courses from.”

“The conservative critics are inventing a straw man that doesn’t exist and are missing the real problem that does,” he added.

Anne Neal, the president of the American Council of Trustees and Alumni, which closely follows this issue, agrees that “it is not about left and right.”

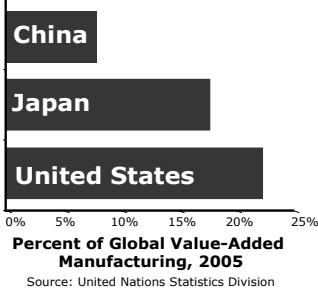
Many researchers and critics also agree that a better grounding in American history and politics is important. “It wasn’t too long ago that schools and universities required civic education and American history,” Mr. Fritschler noted. “Almost all of those requirements have evaporated.”

A number of organizations that have a large base of conservative supporters, like Ms. Neal’s council and the National Association of Scholars, have been promoting a return to traditional courses in western civilization and American history.

Mr. Fritschler said that perhaps the most insidious side effect of assumptions about liberal influence has been an overall disengagement on campus from civic and political affairs, and a reluctance to promote serious debate of political issues. If anything, he added, the problem is not too much politics, but too little.

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Radius Ensemble Saturday, November 15, 8pm *Killian Hall, 14W-111, MIT*

| | |
|-------------|--|
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Tom Stoppard's *Rock 'n' Roll* Sunday, November 16, 2pm *BU Theater, 264 Huntington Avenue, Boston*

spans the years from 1968 to 1990 from the double perspective of Prague—where a rock ‘n’ roll band comes to symbolize resistance to the Communist regime—and of Cambridge, where the verities of love and death are shaping the lives of three generations in the family of a Marxist philosopher

Joan Jonas:Reading Dante Thursday, November 20, 5:30pm (performance at 7pm) *Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum* Legendary performance artist Joan Jonas invites friends to read from Dante's Divine Comedy

Boston Chamber Music Society Sunday, November 23, 7:30pm *Sanders Theater, Harvard*

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Dvořák Piano Trio in F minor, Op. 65

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More Maternity Leave Funded by Unrestricted Physics Donations

Maternity Leave, from Page 1

school, I hope that we will attract more women to the profession,” Bertschinger said. “This is an important goal of the Physics Department.”

According to Bertschinger, childbirth accommodation typically helps one or two physics graduate students each year. Bertschinger said that he expects the cost to be managed using unrestricted gifts from donors. (“I hope that the numbers of women will grow so much that we have to work harder to raise the money!” he added.)

Dean for Graduate Education Steven R. Lerman ’72 said the Physics Department’s extension of childbirth accommodation “strikes a reasonable balance” between having a central, uniform policy and allowing departments to provide additional support for their students.

Departments “should have some flexibility to respond to the competitive pressures they face from other universities, as well as the variations in resources they have,” Lerman said in an e-mail.

Associate Dean of Science Hazel L. Sive said that she was very supportive of giving young women who have given birth “every assistance to continue doing great research.”

“It is my hope that in the near future, this extension is something that will be widespread across the Institute,” Sive said. “But we have to be really pragmatic right now with the financial issues surrounding us. It is easier for some departments to pick up this kind of extension than others.”

The Office of the Dean for Graduate Education receives and grants an average of 15 requests for childbirth accommodation each year, accord-

ing to Lerman. Each request involves funding for two months of tuition and two months of a standard RA or TA stipend, which corresponds, this academic year, to a monthly cost of about \$6,293.

“This academic year, we reached an agreement to continue the current policy beyond the original four years that the school deans agreed to,” Lerman said in an e-mail. Lerman said that no system-wide changes are being planned, but he is collecting feedback and “wouldn’t preclude future changes.”

The current Institute-wide childbirth accommodation policy was adopted by MIT in 2004, replacing a previous policy that encouraged female students who gave birth to petition for a medical leave of absence. A medical leave would retroactively cancel the term and end stipend payments and access to on-campus housing and medical facilities.

The current policy (see: <http://web.mit.edu/odg/gpp/registration/changes.html#4>) states that, with approval from the Office of the Dean for Graduate Education, students anticipating childbirth can request up to two months of childbirth accommodation. During that time, they can retain on-campus residence and access to on-campus medical facilities, and

students supported by an RA or TA appointment would receive a salary.

The policy does not apply to adoptive parents or fathers.

When MIT first adopted its childbirth accommodation policy, it was one of the first schools to provide paid maternity leave to graduate students. Since then, other schools have adopted their own policies, some of which provide support to fathers and adoptive parents. Schmidt pointed to Princeton University as an example of a school that is doing more than MIT. At Princeton, new mothers or fathers can take three months of paid leave, though if both parents are Princeton graduate students, only one can take the three-month leave.

The GSC HCA Family subcommittee is working on encouraging more departments to fund an additional month of maternity leave, according to subcommittee chair Kevin D. Krsulich G.

Krsulich said that the HCA Family subcommittee is also investigating the possibility of extending the policy to fathers and adoptive parents, but that doing so “presents considerably more challenges than in the maternal case.” The main problem is one of scale. According to Krsulich, there are approximately seven times more graduate fathers than mothers.

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SPORTS

Game of the Week

MIT Women's Volleyball Wins in NEWMAC Quarterfinal Match

By Mindy Brauer DAPER STAFF

In the first New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference (NEWMAC) Women's Volleyball Championship Tournament meeting between MIT and Babson College, the No. 3-seeded Engineers emerged with a 25-17, 25-15, 23-25, 25-17 victory over the No. 6 Beavers in a quarterfinal match on Tuesday. MIT (21-15) will travel to Springfield College on Friday, Nov. 8 to square off with No. 2 Wellesley College in semifinal action. Babson concluded its season with an overall record of 16-11.

With the score tied at two in the opening set, the Engineers mounted a 10-1 run, capped by a hit from Barden E. Cleeland '10 that dropped in behind the Beavers' defense. Babson slowly chipped away at the deficit, coming within six (16-10), but MIT registered seven out of the next 10 points to establish a 23-13 advantage. The Beavers notched the next three points before a strike from Jennifer Li '11 resulted in set point. Cait-

lin O'Neill prolonged the frame by sneaking the ball through the Engineers' block. The Engineers would not be denied set point and converted their next opportunity. MIT tallied nine unanswered points to start the second set and went on to build an 18-6 lead. Babson narrowed the margin to eight on three occasions, the last at 23-15. That was as close as it would get as hits from Katrina M. Ellison '10 and Cecily L. Joujon-Roche '12 closed out the set.

In the third set, the Engineers created a 5-2 edge. Miscues coupled with a block by O'Neill put the Beavers ahead, 6-5. After trading points, Babson converted a trio of errors to take a 12-8 lead. MIT battled back and evened the score at 14 on Lindsay E. Hunting's '09 hit from the back row. Following another tie that featured kills from O'Neill and Allison E. Hamilos '12, an error and then a block by Meg Flaherty gave the Beavers the lead for good. The Engineers trailed by one point as late as 19-18, but Babson generated a 5-2 spurt which was capped by Alexa Untermann's ace, resulting in set point. Blocks featuring Cleeland

with Ellison and Hamilos and then a kill by Cleeland narrowed the gap to 24-23. A service error ended MIT's run and forced an additional set. The early stages of the fourth set were closely played as Babson converted a service error to take a 6-5 edge. The Engineers responded with an 11-1 run to regain the lead. The Beavers narrowed the gap to seven (22-15), but they could not generate a late rally to extend the match.

Cleeland collected a team-high six blocks to go along with seven kills for MIT. Li tallied eight kills and four blocks while Kelly E. Schulte '12 posted eight kills and three blocks. Joujon-Roche amassed six kills, three blocks, and two aces while Ellison added nine digs and eight kills. Hamilos bolstered the Engineers' attack with four kills as Hunting totaled nine digs. Catherine Melnikow '10 finished with 26 assists and eight digs.

O'Neill paced Babson with 11 kills while Flaherty contributed nine of her own. Shanna Glassner recorded a match-high 15 digs as Anna Belz dished out 27 assists.

Pistol Tops Coast Guard

The MIT pistol team defeated the host U.S. Coast Guard Academy, 6,004-5,874 last weekend. The women completed the sweep with a 2,663-2,470 decision over the Bears.

Fuzhou Hu '09 registered a dominating performance in air pistol with a tally of 551 as the team went on to record a 2,147-2,113 victory. Christine T. Hsueh '10 came in second for MIT with a 539 as Coast Guard's Alyssa McDonald rounded out the top three with a score of 537.

Andrew K. Sugaya '11 extended the Engineers' margin by finishing one point behind her while the Bears' next shooters posted marks of 530 and 526. Mahati Chintapalli '11 capped off the scoring for MIT with a total of 521, one point ahead of Coast Guard's Heather Johanson.

In standard pistol, MIT emerged with a narrow 1,995-1,991 decision over the Bears. Sugaya led off the competition by shooting a 527, which was followed by a 526 from Coast Guard's Joshua Schwartz. Hu responded with a total of 495, just edging out John Mansolillo's mark of 494.

Once again, Hu paced MIT's efforts with a 506 outing in free pistol. Schwartz and the Bears' Weston Kruse both shot a 474, but the Engineers closed out the competition behind strong performances from Sugaya (467), Benjamin M. Chang '10 (445), and Gregory I. Telian '11 (444).

On the women's side, the Cardinal and Gray defeated the Bears, 1,069-1,037, in air pistol. Hsueh captured the top spot with a total of 363, which was closely followed by McDonald's 361. That was as close as the scores would get as Michelle C. Ma '10 and Lihua Bai '09 turned in marks of 356 and 350 respectively for the Engineers.

—Mindy Brauer, DAPER Staff

MIT Men's Fencing Opens Season At the Big One

Both the MIT men's and women's fencing teams were well represented at The Big One held this past weekend. Igor Kopylov '09 led the charge for the men by capturing fifth place in sabre. Daniel S. Levine '12 finished sixth in foil. Gabriel A. Chan '09 equaled his career-best performance by tying for seventh place in epee action.

Maximilian L. Brand '11 bolstered MIT's efforts in sabre with a 12th-place finish as Rangarajan D. Nadadur '10 claimed the 18th spot. Vinayak Ramesh '12 (28th) and Isaac P. Businger '11 (40th) rounded out the squad.

The remaining members of the foil team finished closely together, with Benjamin T. Switala '09 leading the way at 16th, followed by Richard C. LaGrandier '11 (18th), and Benjamin N. Nield '12 (20th). Chrsantha J. Perera '12 claimed the 36th slot while Siraj Z. Ali '12 ranked 51st.

In epee, Matt L. Gethers '09 placed 19th while Damon C. Henry '10 posted the next finish at 30th. Carter A. Chang '12 placed two spots behind him as Javier J. Ordenez '10 (44th) and Kieran A. McLaughlan '11 (T-70th) closed out the day.

—Mindy Brauer, DAPER Staff

Women's Fencing Rookies Shine At the Big One

The MIT women's fencing team had freshmen Robin S. Shin '12, Lauren M. Chilton '12, Molly A. Kozminsky '12, and Kirsten Hessler '12 each finish in the top seven of their respective weapons at their first intercollegiate competition. Shin placed second in sabre and Chilton claimed sixth place while Kozminsky ranked right behind her. Hessler led the Engineers' efforts in epee with a seventh-place finish. For the second time in her career, Cordelia S. Link '10 led the field in foil action.

Rounding out the sabre squad was Elena A. Tatarchenko '11 in 14th place, followed by Hareem Ahmad '10 (28th), Laura A. Evans '10 (31st), and Jennifer L. Allen '10 (64th).

In foil, Jenna G. Caldwell '11 captured 13th place as Julia A. Hopkins '12 posted the next finish at 24th. Lindley C. Graham '10 trailed three spots behind Hopkins while Shuchen Song '11 and Ana S. Escalante '12 placed 46th and 56th, respectively.

Following Hessler's seventh-place performance, Stephanie H. Shin '10 claimed the 13th spot in the epee competition. Breanna R. Peterman '12 finished 23rd while Sophie. M. Monahan '11 (29th) and Kristin D. Kuhn '11 (36th) completed MIT's contingent.

—Mindy Brauer, DAPER Staff



MIT's Ryan W. Ballentine '09 dives after the puck while goalie Stephen Yablonski '11 tries to make the save in a 7-2 men's ice hockey win over Daniel Webster College on Wednesday evening. MIT looks to improve to 3-0 on Saturday vs Bryant.

NOAH SPIES—THE TECH

UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

Saturday, Nov. 8, 2008
Sailing No Ringer Regatta 9:30 a.m., Charles River
Men's Water Polo vs. Harvard University 10:30 a.m., Zesiger Center
Wrestling Alumni Event 5 p.m., duPont Gymnasium
Football vs. Endicott College 6 p.m., Steinbrenner Stadium
Men's Ice Hockey vs. Bryant University 7 p.m., Johnson Athletic Center

Sunday, Nov. 9, 2008
Sailing Crews Regatta 9:30 a.m., Charles River
Men's Water Polo Northern Division Championship TBD, Zesiger Center

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SCOREBOARD

| Men's Ice Hockey | |
|------------------------------|---|
| Wednesday, Nov. 5 2008 | |
| Daniel Webster College (3-6) | 2 |
| MIT (2-0) | 7 |

| Men's Soccer | |
|---|---|
| Wednesday, Nov. 5, 2008 | |
| Worcester Polytechnic Institute (8-8-1) | 0 |
| MIT (15-2-2) | 1 |

| Women's Volleyball | |
|------------------------|---|
| Tuesday, Nov. 4, 2008 | |
| Babson College (16-11) | 1 |
| MIT (21-15) | 3 |

Nightline 3-8800 We're here to listen.